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of statement. Baume[1] regards the milk-dentition as expelled by the crowding of the germs of the permanent teeth in the jaws, and so caused to protrude earlier. The opinion of Thomas is preferable, since teeth of accelerated growth will certainly retard or repress germs of slower growth, and not weaker germs expel stronger germs, as Baume's theory requires. Moreover, milk-teeth appear at normal age for teeth, while the permanent ones are late. Mr. Thomas finds difficulty in accounting for such precocity and such crowding. Mechanical evolution furnishes the explanation. It is due to the shortening of the jaws; and this is a consequence of the development of the canine teeth from use, and the consequent forward movement of the masseter muscle and its insertions.[2]

It may be observed that the unnecessary terms Prototheria and Eutheria, which are generally ascribed to Professor Huxley in England, were really introduced by Professor Gill.[3]—*E. D. Cope.*

Jordan's Science Sketches.[4]—When Dr. Jordan undertakes the description of a fish his language is the language of science; when he turns his pen to the popularization of scientific subjects he still retains his former conciseness, but at the same time he manages to introduce many epigrammatic sentences and no little quiet humor, the latter the more enjoyable from the thoroughly natural manner in which it is used. His recent book, "Scientific Sketches," is made up of a series of articles, lectures, and addresses, most of which have appeared separately before, but which are welcome in permanent shape. Four of the sketches relate to fishes, dealing with the life of a salmon, the habits of the "John Darters," a sketch of the salmon family, and the dispersion of fresh-water fishes. Three are biographical sketches, the subjects being Rafinesque, Poey, and Darwin. The "Story of a Stone" is a bit of geological history for young readers; the "Ascent of the Matterhorn" is the least scientific, the "Nomenclature of Birds" the least popular, of the essays. The last essay in the volume, "The Evolution of the College Curriculum," is by far the most valuable, but to be fully appreciated it should be read in the light of the experiment in collegiate instruction which is being tried at the Indiana University, of which Dr. Jordan is the president. Dr. Jordan's idea is that a college should provide both the facilities for a general culture and also for detailed study; that, while teaching the elements of several subjects, it should give each student a thorough drill in some one branch. The scheme has been thoroughly worked out on paper, but time alone can tell how it results. It must be said, however, that it has amply satisfied its advocates during the two years that it has been tried.

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[1] I only know this from Schlosser's description, Morphologishes Jahrbuch, 1886, p. 110.

[2] See Cope, The Mechanical Origin of the Sectorial Dentition, Proceeds. Amer. Assoc. Adv. Sci., 1887.

[3] Arrangement of the Families of Mammals, Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge, 1872, pp. v., vi.

[4] Science Sketches. By David Starr Jordan. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. 1887.

Hepaticæ Americanæ.—The first twenty numbers (Decades I. and II.) of this distribution, by Dr. L. F. Underwood and O. F. Cook, were received in the latter part of November. The species represented are as follows, viz.: 1. *Riccia natans* L.; 2. *Marchantia polymorpha* L.; 3. *Conocephalus conicus* (L.) Dum.; 4. *Anthoceros lævis* L.; 5. *Blasia pusilla* L.; 6. *Steetzia lyellii* Lehm.; 7. *Frullania grayana* Mont.; 8. *Lejeunia serpyllifolia* Lib., var. *Americana* Lindb.; 9. *Madotheca porella* (Dicks.) Nees.; 10. *Radula complanata* (L.) Dum.; 11. *Ptilidium ciliare* (L.) Nees.; 12. *Bazzania trilobata* (L.) B. Gr.; 13. *Trichocolea tomentella* (Ehr.) Dum.; 14. *Lepidozia reptans* (L.) Dum.; 15. *Kantia trichomanis* (L.) B. Gr.; 16. *Geocalyx graveolens* (Schrad.) Nees.; 17. *Cephalozia curvifolia* (Dicks.) Dum.; 18. *Jungermania schraderi* Mart.; 19. *Scapania nemorosa* (L.) Dum.; 20. *Plagiochila porellioides* Lindenb.

The specimens are carefully selected, and are neatly labelled. As will be seen, they represent the four orders of Liverworts, as well as all the larger genera. The set is well worth the price asked for it ($1.25). It may be obtained of Dr. Underwood, at Syracuse, N. Y. Teachers of botany will find this set a valuable one for their beginning classes.—*Charles E. Bessey.*

GENERAL NOTES.

GEOLOGY AND PALÆONTOLOGY.

The Sonora Earthquake of May 3, 1887.—On the afternoon of May 3, 1887, at 2.12 Pacific time (=120° W. of Greenwich), the first of a series of earthquake movements was felt in the State of Sonora and the adjacent parts of Mexico and the United States, over an area extending from El Paso in Texas on the east to the river Colorado and the Gulf of California on the west, and from the State of Sinaloa on the south as far north as Albuquerque in New Mexico; the extremes in both directions being over five hundred miles. It was the fortune of the writers to be at the time at the great copper-mining camp of Bisbee in Arizona, in a narrow gorge of the Mule Pass Mountains, about five thousand three hundred feet above the sea, and near the border of Sonora. A violent tremor of the earth, including two sharp shocks, and lasting over ninety seconds, was succeeded at fre-